

REMARKS

The examiner has rejected claims 1-5 as being anticipated by US 3,574,449 to Rosenberg, objected to claims 6-10, and allowed claims 25-28. Claims 11-24 were withdrawn. The Examiner has indicated claims 6-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Response:

Applicant has amended the limitations of claim 6 into base claim 1. The prior art does not teach the combination of two clip members with aligned lower flanges and aligned holes defined therein. For instance, the clips of Rosenberg do not align and there are no holes defined on the flanges (8 and 8') of Rosenberg. In fact the flanges (8 and 8') of Rosenberg are turned away from one another and are solid throughout to allow an adhesive to be used. See claim 1 as now amended wherein "the lower flange member of the first clip member includes at least one hole; the lower flange member of the second clip member includes at least one hole aligned with at least one hole of the lower flange member of the first clip member; and the lower flange member of the second clip member is positioned beneath the lower flange member of the first clip member."

Furthermore, as the examiner has correctly indicated, the prior art does not teach a step portion on the lower flange as taught by claims 7-10, and claims 25-28.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this amendment and response be entered, and that claims 1-5, 7-10, and claims 25-28 be allowable. Applicant reserves any and all rights to continue prosecution of the withdrawn claims pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121. Should informal matters still remain, the attorney of record may be contacted at the below address and phone number. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,
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